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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,190	09/08/2003	Nobuhiro Miki	21776-00042-US	8417
30678	7590	05/10/2007		
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 2207			KORNAKOV, MIKHAIL	
WILMINGTON, DE 19899-2207			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1746	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,190

Applicant(s)

MIKI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Kornakov

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8,10-13 and 18-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-5,8,10 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13,18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' amendment dated 03/06/2007 is acknowledged. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-13, 18-20 are pending. Claim 20 is new. Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 19 are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 11-13, 18 and 20 are examined on the merits.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: the identifier of claim 13 recites "(Currently amended)". However, there is no indication of any amendment to claim 13. Therefore, appropriate clarification and/or correction of the identifier to claim 13 is required.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 11-13, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunze-Concewitz (U.S. 5,964,952).

U.S. 5,964,952 to Kunze-Concewitz is taken as an equivalent to WO 96/10463, which is published in German on April 11, 1996. Kunze-Concewitz discloses a surface purification method used in manufacturing semiconductor or LCD devices. The method of Kunze-Concewitz comprises generating a wet steam having liquid droplets (reads on "mist containing steam", as instantly claimed), bringing the wet steam into contact with the surface of the device by spraying, thus purifying the surface of the device (col.4, line

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28; col. 5, lines 15-20). With regard to claim 13 Kunze-Concewitz teaches the processing temperature in the range from 100°C to 200°C (col.5, lines 40-42).

With regard to claim 18, Kunze-Concewitz teaches drying the surfaces with hot steam, which can be superheated (col.2, lines 50-52; col.4, line 28) and discharging the atmosphere into the apparatus, thus inherently achieving the effect of staving off the water marks.

With regard to claim 20, Kunze-Concewitz teaches the use of steam valve 4 for introducing a wet steam into the chamber by spraying onto the surface through a steam spraying nozzle 1 (col.4, lines 26- 29).

Therefore, all the processing steps as instantly claimed are met by Kunze-Concewitz.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 03/06/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Kunze-Concewitz discloses cleaning a contaminated surface with both "water and steam" and that Kunze-Concewitz nowhere discloses "mist-containing saturated steam." Applicants' attention is drawn to the embodiment recited in col. 5, lines 15-27, wherein wet steam is utilized for surface cleaning. Apparently, Applicants' argument is related to the different embodiment of Kunze-Concewitz, described in col.6, lines 46-61, wherein a water film is specifically generated for steam cleaning. However, it is well settled that an applied reference may be relied

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upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one of the ordinary skill in the art, including not only preferred embodiments, but less preferred and even non-preferred, consult *Merc & Co v. Biocraft Labs, Inc.*, 874 F.2d 804,807 10 USPQ 2d 1843, 1846 (Fed. Cir.). Therefore, the Applicants' argument that Kunze-Concewitz discloses cleaning a contaminated surface only with both "water and steam" is apparently without merits.

Applicants also argue that Kunze-Concewitz nowhere discloses two different steam processing steps of: (1) "bringing said mist-containing saturated steam into contact with a surface" and (2) "spraying said mist-containing saturated steam onto said surface," as recited in claim 11. Applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that the instant claim 11 also does not emphasize two **different** steam processes and the recitation of claim 11 as instantly presented is readable on the step wherein the steam is brought into contact with a surface by spraying it onto the surface. Therefore, the feature upon which applicant relies (i.e., two different steam processes) is not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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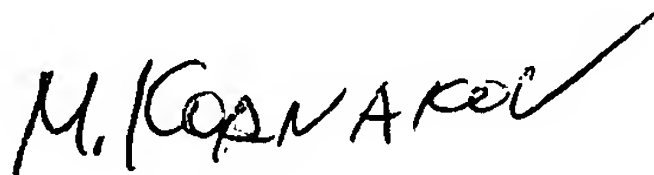
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Kornakov whose telephone number is (571) 272-1303. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kornakov", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Kornakov
Primary Examiner
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05/07/07